

[3 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) the number of unviable projects; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to complete the pending projects and to give up the unviable projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) All ongoing Railway projects, for which requisite clearances are available, are being progressed according to their relative priority and as per availability of resources.

(b) At present, there are 278 Railway projects in progress under New Lines, Gauge Conversion, Doubling, Railway Electrification and Metropolitan Transport Projects (MTP) Plan-Heads. Out of these, 41 projects have been physically completed and only residual works/financial adjustments are being carried out for such projects. Out of the remaining 237 ongoing projects, 135 are financially unviable.

(c) In order to ensure judicious allocation of resources, New Line and Gauge Conversion projects have been prioritised by the Railways on the basis of their physical progress, operational importance, National and strategic significance and social desirability.

All Railway projects, even if they are financially unviable, have significance — social, strategic or operational. Hence, none of the projects is at present being considered for dropping. In view of paucity of funds allocation for such projects are regulated as per their priority.

Sam Pitroda Committee on railway system

1475. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sam Pitroda Committee formed only in February, 2001 to suggest ways to modernise the railway system has been dissolved;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the alternative proposals under consideration for modernisation of the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) The Advisory Committee set-up under the Chairmanship of Shri Sam Pitroda in February, 2001 for a period of six months to initiate a comprehensive process of modernisation of Railway system and for launching a new initiative for resource mobilisation, was dissolved with effect from 9.6.2001 due to non-participation of Chairman and a Member in the deliberations of the Committee.

(c) An Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. Rakesh Mohan, Director General, National Council of Applied Economic Research, was constituted on 31.12.1998 to study the Railway Sector including organisational structure. The final report of the Group is expected shortly.

Revenue of S.E. Railway from Bilaspur Division

†1476. SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total revenue earned by the Railways, year-wise, during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, in term of freight and passenger fare in Bilaspur Division (S.E. Railway) in Madhya Pradesh/Chhattisgarh; and

(b) the total revenue earned year-wise by S.E. Railway in terms of freight and passenger fare during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Year-wise Originating Earnings of Bilaspur Division is as under:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.